GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2318
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
BT COTTON SEEDS
H.G. RAMULU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to conduct field trails of BT cotton seeds in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total area in hectares where the field trial is likely to be conducted;

(c) the districts in Karnataka selected for the purpose;

(d) whether the above field trials would be for only one season; and

(e) if so, the advantages of conducting such field trials?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)to(c): The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee ofMinistry of Environment& Forests had given permission for conduct of field trials on BT Cotton in an areas of 2.46 Hectares in the districts of Bellary, Davangare, Koppal, Dharwad and Raichur, inthe State of Karnataka.

(d)&(e): The multi-centric field trials and replicated field trials are being conducted for one season to reassess the potential of BT trait in Indian cotton hybrids in controlling lepidopteran pests and agronomic advantages which were evident during small scale field trials conducted during 1989-99 and 1999-2000.